



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Branstetter or [Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov](mailto:Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov)  
727-570-5305, FAX 727-570-5583  
<http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>

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## SHRIMP FISHERY RE-OPENING OFF TEXAS

Federal waters from 9 to 200 nautical miles off Texas will be open to shrimping 30 minutes after sunset on July 8, 2001. The Federal opening corresponds to when Texas opens its waters to shrimp trawling. The shrimp fishery is closed annually off Texas to allow brown shrimp to reach a larger and more valuable size prior to harvest, and to prevent waste of brown shrimp that would otherwise be discarded due to their small size.

Current regulations establish a Federal closure from May 15 to July 15, each year, but provide an allowance for annual adjustments by the

Regional Administrator. Based on a biological sampling program conducted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Texas opens state waters, and NMFS opens Federal waters, to shrimp trawling when the mean size of shrimp leaving the estuaries is 112 mm total length, during a period of maximum duration ebb tides. Biological data collected by TPDW indicates that the criteria to end the Texas closure will be met on July 8, 2001.

NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.